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SOURCE Hsin-sheng Wan-pao.FORMOSAN JAPANESE RECRUITED IN HAINAN

A high official of the Ministry of National Defense recently confirmed the report that some 10,000 Formosan Japanese miners and harbor workers in Hainan had been trained and inducted into the regular KMT Army. These men were given training by the Taiwan Training Headquarters at the request of the Hainan Government.

According to this official, the first attempt to induct these Formosan Japanese into the military service was made about a year ago by Ts'ai Ching-chun (Ueda: 10008, 876, 11745) when he was in control of Hainan. He asked Chiang Kai-shek's permission to train these men to be used in combating the Communist forces on the island, but the plan failed as a result of the refusal of Taiwan Training Headquarters to cooperate. When Ch'en Chi-t'ang (12864, 6641, 5039) became governor of Hainan, the matter was again considered, but was again shelved because of the lack of accommodations at the Feng-shan Training Center.

Since the fall of Nan-ching (Nanking) and other reverses, the plan was reconsidered and adopted. Training officers were subsequently sent to Yu-lin to train and induct these men into the regular army. The task was greatly facilitated by their previous military services. Some of these men are now being sent to Kuang-chow (Canton) to act as training cadre for other troops.

Chiang Kai-shek wants to send these men to Kiangsi, Kunan, and Kwangtung to engage the Communists. However, Ch'en Chi-t'ang hopes to retain some of them in Hainan to strengthen the military power of the island. His recent visit to Taiwan was made in connection with this matter.

This official further stated that the arming of so many men depended entirely upon Chiang who had the final say with regard to the use of munitions. Therefore, he concluded that there was very little hope that Ch'en will be able to obtain Chiang's approval to retain the troops and have them armed at the same time.

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